

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 4069

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 25431

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS1

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED OECD COUNCIL DECISION TO ESTABLISH
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

REFS: A) USOECD 25424

B) STATE 236977

1. OECD SEC GEN VAN LENNEP TODAY REVIEWED FOR OECD HEADS OF DELEGATION FROM ECG COUNTRIES QUESTION OF COUNCIL ACTION TO ESTABLISH IEA. AFTER POSITIVE STATEMENT ON HOW OECD COOPERATION COULD BENEFIT FROM HAVING IEP WITHIN OECD FRAMEWORK AS WELL AS HOW IEA COULD BENEFIT FROM BEING LOCATED IN EXISTING WIDER COOPERATION FRAMEWORK, HE REVIEWED THE TWO AREAS OF DIFFICULTY HE HAS DISCUSSED WITH DAVIGNON.

2. REGARDING THE FIRST AREA--THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE OECD CONVENTION--HE TOLD HEADS OF DELS DRAFT DECISION OF OCT. 24 DEALT SATISFACTORILY WITH HIS CONCERNS ON RELATIONSHIP OF AGENCY STAFF AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SEC GEN. HE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT POLITICAL REALITIES DICTATE THE UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF SEPARATION BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND THE COUNCIL.

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3. THE SECOND AREA OF DIFFICULTY, HE SAID, WAS THE BROAD QUESTION OF OECD COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY INVOLVING BOTH IEA PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (PCS) AND NON-PCS. HE NOTED WITHOUT TAKING ISSUE THAT ECG COUNTRIES HAD NOT WANTED TO AMEND TEXT OF DRAFT DECISION AS HE HAD PROPOSED, THOUGH REMOVAL OF EXCLUSIVE LANGUAGE IN HEADING TO ARTICLE 6 (A) WAS HELPFUL. THE BROAD QUESTION, HOWEVER, HAD STILL NOT BEEN DEALT WITH IN A MANNER THAT WOULD FULLY SATISFY THE NON-PCS. HE THOUGHT THE PROBLEM COULD BEST BE HANDLED BY A DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY THE PCS WHICH WOULD BE PLACED IN THE RECORD ALONG WITH STATEMENT BY COUNCIL TAKING NOTE OF PCS DECLARATION. RECORD, HE SAID, SHOULD SHOW THAT COUNCIL DECISION WAS NOT INTENDED TO PREJUDGE CONTINUING OECD-WIDE COOPERATION ON ENERGY BUT THAT COUNCIL AND IEA WERE LEAVING TO FUTURE HOW ENERGY COOPERATION MIGHT DEVELOP.

4. SECGEN SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SCENARIO OVER WEEK-END WITH DAVIGNON, WHO HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE (DAVIGNON) WOULD DRAFT DECLARATION IN SUCH A WAY THAT SIMPLE CONFIRMATION BY COUNCIL WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. VAN LENNEP SAID HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING TEXT WITH DAVIGNON PROBABLY TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY.

5. SECGEN SAID HE WOULD, ON DAVIGNON'S SUGGESTION, IMMEDIATELY PROCEED WITH BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH NON-ECG COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT ARE NOT CONSIDERED CANDIDATES AND HAVE NOT BEEN KEPT AS FULLY INFORMED, ON DEVELOPMENTS AND ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION. IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN QUESTION VAN LENNEP ASSURED ECG HEADS OF DEL THAT UNTIL DAVIGNON DRAFT RECEIVED HE WOULD REFER ONLY IN MOST GENERAL TERMS TO POSSIBLE PC DECLARATION RE OECD-WIDE COOPERATION IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH NON-ECG COUNTRIES.

6. AMBASSADOR TURNER CONCURRED IN APPROPRIATENESS OF SEPARATE DECLARATION AND ACKNOWLEDGED CONSTRUCTIVENESS OF SECGEN'S APPROACH. SINCE SECGEN HAD NOT FLOATED SPECIFIC LANGUAGE AND HAD SAID INITIATIVE WAS WITH DAVIGNON, AMBASSADOR DID NOT PROPOSE LANGUAGE INDICATED

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REF (B) TO HEADS OF DELS, LEAVING THAT QUESTION TO DAVIGNON AND ECG. REFLECTING INSTRUCTIONS, AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT RATHER THAN TALKING ABOUT "NOT PREJUDGING" OECD-WIDE COOPERATION, IT WOULD PERHAPS BE BETTER TO SPEAK OF INTENT TO CONTINUE OECD-WIDE COOPERATION (FOURTH POINT PARA 7, REF A).

7. RESPONSES OF OTHER HEADS OF DELS WERE ALSO GENERALLY

POSITIVE. (IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US FOLLOWING MEETING U.K. AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS, WHO HAD KNOWN ABOUT SECGEN'S INTENTION BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH

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AMBASSADOR TURNER FRIDAY TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT DECISION, EMPHASIZED THEIR RELIEF THAT SECGEN HAD BEEN PREVAILED UPON TO CHANGE HIS MIND.)

8. U.K. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED SECGEN REPORT TO 12 HEADS OF DELS FOLLOWING HIS BILATERAL CONTACTS, WHICH SECGEN AGREED TO DO LATER THIS WEEK. IN ANSWER FURTHER QUESTION SECGEN SAID DAVIGNON HAD SUGGESTED MEETING OF 24 HEADS OF DELS NOV. 7 AND ECG MEETING NOV 8 AND POSSIBLY NOV. 9 WITH COUNCIL DECISION TO BE TAKEN NOV. 12 OR 15.

9. AMBASSADOR TURNER SUGGESTED FURTHER MEETING OF SEC GEN WITH 12 HEADS OF DELS IMMEDIATELY AFTER NOV. 8-9 ECG MEETING AND HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SECGEN CONCERNING HIS BILATERAL CONTACTS.

10. DUTCH AMBASSADOR REPORTED GREEK AMB HAD TOLD HIM HE DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE INSTRUCTIONS BY TIME OF COUNCIL MEETING. GREEK AMB APPARENTLY IS TAKING THE LINE THAT

CARETAKER GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE A POSITION.
EXTENSIVE DUTCH DISCUSSION IN ATHENS HAD SHOWN
DISAGREEMENT AMONG GREEK MINISTRIES DUTCH AMB SAID.
SECGEN URGED DUTCH DIRECTLY APPROACH GREEK MINISTERS
ZOLOTAS AND MAVROS. AMBASSADOR TURNER POINTED OUT GREEKS
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HAD OPTION OF ABSTAINING, BUT THAT DECISION WOULD BE
DELAYED IF THEY RESERVED THEIR POSITION DUE TO LACK OF
INSTRUCTIONS. HE SAID THIS CASE ILLUSTRATED COMPELLING
NEED FOR INTENSIVE AND SYSTEMATIC CONTACTS WITH NON-ECG
COUNTRIES AND AMONG PC DELEGATIONS.

11. COMMENT: (A) WE THINK IT URGENT THAT WASHINGTON
VIEWS ON CONTENTS OF DECLARATION BE TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY
TO DAVIGNON, AND THAT HE BE URGED TO WORK THIS OUT WITH
VAN LENNEP ASAP IN ORDER TO LEAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO
SMOKE OUT ANY ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT DELAY COUN-
CIL DECISION. WE HOPE THIS MISSION WILL BE KEPT IMMEDI-
ATELY AND CURRENTLY INFORMED OF ANY EXCHANGE WITH DAVIGNON
ON THIS MATTER SO THAT WE MAY WEIGH IN AS NEEDED WITH
SECGEN IF HE BEGINS TO WAVER.

(B) IN REVIEWING POSITION, WE SUGGEST WASHINGTON
RECONSIDER MERITS OF WORDING ALONG LINES SECGEN USED
TODAY AND IN SECOND POINT OF PARA 7, REF A. THAT QUITE
LIMITED STATEMENT WOULD NOT PRECLUDE ANY DECISION OF
COUNCIL EITHER TO RETAIN, TO REDUCE, TO TRANSFER OR TO
ELIMINATE SUCH ACTIVITIES. THIS SIMPLE OBSERVATION OF
THE LEGAL SITUATION DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS OUR FOURTH
POINT, WHICH DEPARTMENT ACCEPTED AS STATEMENT OF INTENT
ON COOPERATION IN OECD-WIDE ACTIVITIES. WE ARE UNCLEAR,
INCIDENTALLY, WHETHER DEPT'S SUGGESTED TEXT REF B REFERS
TO IEA ACTIVITIES, OECD-WIDE ACTIVITIES OR BOTH.

(C) WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CURRENT SCHEDULE WHEREBY
HEADS OF 24 DELS MEETING IS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE MEETING
OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DECIDED TO BE CHARTER MEMBERS
OF IEA. WE SUGGEST WASHINGTON RECONSIDER DESIRABILITY OF
STICKING TO PREVIOUS TIMETABLE OF ECG MEETING WITH ALL
CHARTER PCS PRESENT NOV. 7, AND OECD HEADS OF 24 DELS
NOV. 8, WITH FURTHER PCS MEETING, IF NECESSARY, NOV. 9.
TURNER

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